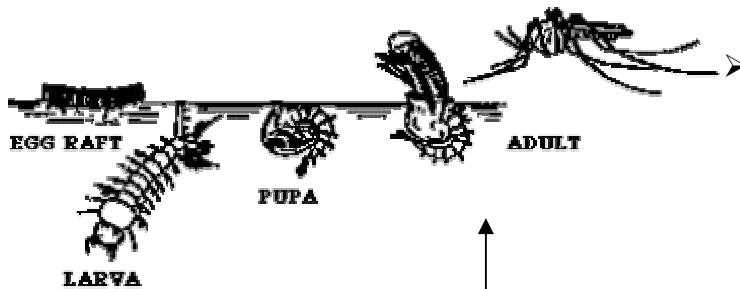


## About Mosquitoes in Minnesota

Mosquitoes have been in the headlines since the spread of West Nile Virus to the United States. Although they are still mainly a nuisance that most Minnesotans are familiar with, several of the fifty species in the state can spread disease.



### THE MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE

Although mosquitoes are found in a variety of habitats, including marshes, woods, and back yards, they all need a blood meal and water to complete their life cycle.

### DON'T DO MOSQUITOES ANY FAVORS!

There is no County program for mosquito control. However, there are things you can do for yourself:

- *Eliminate standing water to eliminate mosquito-breeding areas:*
  - Remove, turn over, or drain all containers, including tires, pails, pots, tubs, wading pools, pet dishes, and sagging rain gutters.
  - Drain and refill wading pools, birdbaths, pet dishes, etc. every 3-5 days.
  - Drain or fill tire ruts and other depressions in the ground.
  - Find water-holding cavities in trees and fill them with dirt or sand.
- *Eliminate areas where mosquitoes rest during the day:*
  - Trim weeds, brush, and trees around your house.
  - Cut your lawn and trim edge areas regularly.

### *Eliminate yourself as a "free meal"*

- Schedule outdoor activities during midday hours.
- Camp or picnic in open, breezy areas.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, both in light colors.
- Use a mosquito repellent containing no more than 30% DEET. Follow label instructions and precautions. Minimize applications directly to the skin, especially on wounds or irritated skin, or near the eyes and mouth. Do not apply to children's hands.
- Make sure open windows are screened.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit the following website:  
[www.mosquito.org](http://www.mosquito.org)  
Click on "Mosquito Information"
- Call Olmsted County Public Health Services at (507) 285-8370

